

Related Art Dept.  
January 24, 1942

Dear Dicks,

Thanks for the letters, the box of cards and the cookies! It was all very nice.

I'm so glad to get Carl Henry's address - and I will try to write him while he's in Missouri.

How is the lady at Hattie's home? Is she still living or not? That must have been a long night for you to watch with her.

Isn't it nice that you're going to Jonette's wedding? She's a grand girl and I know she will make an excellent wife. If the big occasion happens on the right Sunday perhaps I could come home for the ~~big~~ affair.

Yes, I got all three packages and I do thank you for getting everything for me. The Goldsteins thought I had an excellent display and were very enthusiastic about my "Test Your Taste" quiz in needlework for the ladies. There was considerable discussion about it, so it probably was worth while.

I haven't gotten my jacket back from the cleaners yet or I don't know how it will look. You and the cleaner thought alike about drying the jacket. He thought it a shame - but I've had it that way for ten years now and I would like a change.



We couldn't go skating Friday because the ice is not in condition - The weather up here is like late March weather - there is no snow and here they're having the Winter Carnival over in St. Paul. The ice palace can't be used - the temperature has been so high that the ice was unsafe.

Have you had Carrie out yet? I should think she would enjoy visiting with old friends from school days.

It's so warm here that some of us are going to have a picnic over in Como Park tomorrow noon if the weather is like it has been today - if it's cold we'll picnic in the Home Economics Building.

Enclosed is a list of the things I sent back to you in the box. Will you let me know when you receive it?

We still have one of Jonette's dish towels and one of your pot holders on exhibit. But as soon as the art classes have taken the "Test your Taste" quiz I'll return these two things to you. Will you see that they get to Ann and Jonette with my thanks, please?

Greetings to all

Sincerely,

Helen



February 28, 1942

Dear folks,

Ja, nu skal det være alvor! After two weeks I better do something about a little correspondence home.

First of all here is my check for fifty-five dollars - bringing the grand total down to nine hundred dollars even.

We have been asked to have part of our pay checks put into defense bonds beginning with the March payment. I stated that I would give twenty dollars a month until further notice. I am having the defense bonds made out to you as my beneficiary, dad; rather than having them left in my name as long as I owe you so much money. Would you care to take them as part payment on my debt or would you rather have the cash? Either way will be all right with me. I still plan to send you around the usual amount each month in cash in addition to the defense bonds.



So many nice things have happened that I must tell you about some of them. Two weeks ago Friday nite when Bill and I were chaperoning the Minnecon dance, the Minnecon girls presented me with a lovely gardenia corsage. I was so surprised and so very thrilled. It was such a lovely thing.

Then last weekend I spent with Doris in Milwaukee. She is the girl who was in my office last year. She had asked me to come to Milwaukee for New Year's but I was much too busy as you know. So not having any Friday afternoon or Saturday class, I took the Chicago-Northwestern "400" to Milwaukee. The "400" is a streamliner - so called because it travels the 400 miles between the Twin Cities and Chicago in 400 minutes. So you know that we didn't loaf on the way! I got on the train at 3 in the afternoon. The cars were all crowded with weekend travellers. I sat with a woman from Minneapolis who was going to Chicago to see her husband who is with the R. A. F. and was having a short leave in this country. She was a most interesting person.

Doris and George met me at the station and then we drove out to Wauwatosa - a suburb - where they have a home.

Saturday morning we went to visit George's parents who live in West Allis - another



suburb of Milwaukee. George's father is a designer for the Allis Chalmers company. He is a very interesting and alert old gentleman. Saturday evening we were invited to the home of one of Doris' friends. Her husband - like George is an engineer in the main office of the Bell Telephone Company. This couple had seven looms in their home - all kinds and sizes. Five of these were floor looms. I was just thrilled. The husband had made three of these - one was of the loveliest birch wood. The woman and her mother did weaving as a hobby and have sold many of the things they make. They had a spinning wheel and showed me how to spin wool. First I carded it and then tried to make an even yarn - which is not so simple as at first it looks. The man had a wonderful tool shop down stairs - he was polishing stones the ~~day~~ day we were there. He was going to learn how to make jewelry from Doris so that he could set his own stones. Isn't that something?

Well, Sunday nite we saw the movies Doris and George had taken out in Yellow Stone this last summer. The colors were



just wonderful! I've never seen better color photography. George certainly has the technique.

Monday Doris took me shopping down in the loop. What fun! And do you know what I bought? Only a double socket for my lamps! I never seem to remember that when I'm in Mpls. and I thought of it Monday so purchased it. He laughed about it — coming to Milwaukee to buy a double socket. We saw lovely shoes, hats and suits — all the spring things that look so fresh and bright after winter colors.

I left on the 4:15 train for St. Paul — again the "400". Isn't it remarkable how one can travel on these streamliners for exactly the same fare as on the slower trains? When I got on the train one of my students and her father were on the train — also going to Minneapolis. We had the best visit and had dinner together on the train.

Well, this week went fast. Not having classes Monday because of Washington's birthday made the week seem even shorter.

Wednesday I gave a talk on Crafts. It was such fun and the girls enjoyed



selling the things I've made. Wednesday evening there was a Phi Upsilon Omicron meeting. Thursday evening I was invited to Mary Brances' home for dinner. We had a lovely time and she wanted to hear all about Lois and George.

Friday evening I was shapeless at another dance. Last night the Extension Division had their quarterly dinner meeting at the new Union. Bill, being the marketing specialist for the state and one of the extension folks, asked me to go as his guest. We had a very nice time and met some grand people.

Today I am going to cut out a blouse for my spring suit. One of the girls has just been in here visiting for the last hour so I'm not going to get as much done as I had planned.

Say, I guess I got a black mark in the book for not having sent you any material for Grandma Henningsen's gift for her birthday. But I have completely forgotten about it until yesterday. I looked for some material in January but didn't find anything that looked just right and I haven't been shopping lately. I wrote



grandma a letter for her birthday because  
I haven't been able to get to town for a card.  
But maybe the letter will do this time.

How is everyone since the big wedding?  
Do write and tell me all about it -

Say, will you send this epistle on to Vera  
and Esther? I should have made a  
carbon<sup>copy</sup> but I didn't think when I started  
that I'd make a newspaper of it.

Here's also a sample of my blouse  
material. Isn't it gay or would you  
say gaudy? If not too much shows I  
think it will be all right.

Spring quarter I'm teaching the two big  
lecture classes in Related art. There are  
between 70 and 80 students in each. I will  
have to learn my lessons well when I'm  
entrusted with such a group. The Goldsteins  
are the ones who usually teach it themselves  
so I consider it almost an honor to be  
~~able to~~ asked to do it this time.

Greetings to everybody.

Love

Helen



1381 North Cleveland Ave.  
Saint Paul, Minn.  
March 8, 1942

Dear Mother and Dad,

Well, by this time we must have had a wedding in our family! I sent Abbey and Nan a telegram of congratulations Friday hoping that it would reach them in time. I certainly do wish them well. These are such troubled and uncertain days.

As usual, I've been on the gallop this week. Yesterday afternoon I was out at the home of one of my students for tea. She lives in the district of Minneapolis: exclusive set. What a home! And what money had been spent - some rather foolishly too - to my simple way of thinking - some of the things didn't show very good taste. Maybe there's something in knowing what's right even though I can't afford it myself - at least I haven't made some mistakes which I might have! We had a very nice time and Virginia has a very nice sister and mother. They took a recording of my voice while we were talking - and then played the record - more fun!!!

At present I am waiting for Professor and Mrs. Ekstrom who are coming to take me to church. Reverend Tumbert, who used to be the minister at the church I attended in Burlington, is now the minister of a Lutheran Church in St. Paul. The other night when I was visiting with Mrs. Ekstrom



she mentioned how well they liked their new minister -  
and that he was formerly an Iowa - and it  
turns out that he was Rev. Tambut. He is the  
minister at the church where Dagmar Hen-  
ningsen's husband officiated while here in  
the Twin cities - more later -

hello again,

Monday afternoon

A committee meeting has been postponed so here  
you again.

Thanks a lot for your letter, dad. I was so glad  
to get it and also your answer about the defense  
stamps - or bonds - I should say. I am having  
\$20.00 saved out each month and they will be  
converted into bonds at the bank and then  
the bonds will be sent to me and then to you. This  
starts with the last March or the first April  
check as I understand it. Thank you so much  
for letting me do this in payment of my bill.

I surely would like to see the flowers - they  
must be lovely around the house. Everything  
is still winter up here. The flowers won't be out  
for another month at least. But we are having  
some nice sunshiny days which help so  
much.

Miss Fisher wrote me a letter last week and  
said something about going to Cedar Falls for a  
meeting on March 20th. She is driving through  
and will undoubtedly come through Dike.  
So I think I'll take the liberty of telling her to  
stop and see you on the way coming or going -  
I know you have always enjoyed visiting  
with her & I shouldn't be surprised but  
what you'd have some cookies baked up



for that day anyhow. She wouldn't be staying long. I know she would appreciate it if you sent her a card asking her to stop to.

How about Grandma Henningsen's birthday? Did she have one? And did you get anything from a son for her?

Have you heard from Carl Henry lately? Is he still in Missouri or has he been transferred?

Last night I went to the show "How Green Was My Valley." It's an exceptionally good one. If you get the opportunity to see it. The setting is a coal mining town in Wales and the scenery is very good and the story is excellent.

Friday night I have an invitation to the Ice Skates in Minneapolis - I really is supposed to be very, very good. Write about that after I've seen it.

This is the end of winter quarter. Exams start Friday of this week. Needless to say we are all busy - students and faculty alike.

Sincerely,  
Helen



Helen S. Petersen  
1381 N. Cleveland  
Saint Paul, Minn.



Mr. Thorwald Petersen  
Dike, Iowa



1381 North Cleveland  
Saint Paul, Minn.  
April 1, 1942

Dear Dad,

Enclosed is a check for seventy dollars. Pin of this is to repay the check I made out week before last. The other sixty dollars are to apply on my "account"! So to date I've got it peeled down to \$790.00 if I remember correctly from my books which are at home.

They began taking out our defense savings at this time from our checks. So as soon as I have accumulated enough for a \$37.50



bond I'll send that also.

The weather here is wonderful today - almost springlike if it would only warm up.

Classes are going well - but the lecture sections take a lot of preparation.

Have you started the garden yet? It must soon be time.

Many thanks again for lending me the money.

Greetings to mother and everyone.

Sincerely,

Helen

P.S. I have a chance for a \$2500.00 job out in Massachusetts — but I



think I'd still rather be at  
Minnesota U. - But its fun  
to be asked anyhow!

1480



The Office  
May 2, 1992

Dear folks,

It seems as if I'm getting a little slack again on the letter writing part of the program — but we've been so busy going places. And now I'm trying frantically to get caught up with my school work.

Vera and I are going to the "Festival of Nations" this afternoon. It's a grand affair which is put on only once every three years in St. Paul. Will tell you more about it when we've been.

Last night I was at a formal party which the Pitkins had. Bill and I had so much fun chaperoning the affair which was held in a lovely hotel. We danced until after 12 and then had a lovely supper and danced some more between courses.

I wore my yellow organdy formal and my new "evening coat" which is dark blue. Bill said I looked beautiful.



so maybe I was passing fair at least!  
He is taking both Vera and me out to  
dinner this evening.

Monday evening there is an extemporaneous  
speaking contest on our campus. Mr. Nichols  
asked if I would (~~chaperone~~) be a judge.  
I think it will be fun.

Spring is here in Minnesota.  
The flowers and trees are all in blossom.  
It's a real fairy land outside.  
I'm so glad she came at such a  
lovely season. I hope she enjoys it  
while she is here. Everybody is so  
nice to us and includes us at  
so many things that we can't possibly  
go to all.

Greetings to Ann's and all.

Sincerely,

Helen

Mon - morning -

Hello - again -

Here is a check for \$52.50. Next time there should  
be a \$37.50 bond along with the check. Then the  
dollars will be even again. Mange Tak!

Helen



1381 North Cleveland Ave.  
Saint Paul, Minn.  
May 16, 1942

Dear folks —

Haven't heard from you for so long that I'm beginning to wonder if I'm still on your "mailing list".

There is not much news to be reported about Vera's condition except that she needs rest and is to gain in weight. At present she has shown a gain of three pounds which we consider very good for the start. Otherwise we don't have any information about how long she will have to stay — she doesn't know and I doubt that the doctor can estimate the exact time in a case such as hers.

In the meantime she enjoys getting letters very much. I don't think she enjoys any thing more than a good newsy letter such as she gets from a couple of her Des Moines friends whenever they feel the "urge" to write to her as they say. I try to get to see her every other day — it takes an afternoon or an evening's time when one counts the coming and going — in the meantime I have



a lot to do to catch ~~catch~~ up for the time lost. I have been taking books and magazines to her to help pass her time.

In case anything unusual comes up I'll be sure to let you know the quickest way. Everyone here is so thoughtful of her that I feel they are most generous.

This is a week full of senior activities and there has been much to go to.

At cap and gown day exercises they always award honorary degrees to five or six people - students and instructors - all in fun, of course. It so happened that I was one to be so honored this year. It was more fun - although somewhat embarrassing to each one of us as we were standing in front of the entire senior class while the dean read off the reason for giving us an Honorary Doctor's Degree!! Afterwards we had to "work" for our distinctive awards by spading in the dirt around a tree which was planted by the senior class in their memory.

Tuesday evening was Recognition Day when all the special honors and awards for the year's scholastic achievements were given to the students. Afterwards there



was a reception at the Union on our campus. I was asked to join.

Another day the Y. W. on our campus had a supper at the home of Dean Bailey. The Advisory Board was also there and I was one of the guests. Later I was asked if I would act on the advisory board for the next term, three years - I felt greatly honored to be asked.

I seem to be writing more about myself than about Vera but I can't really think of much more to say about her.

at present I'm in the process of checking 120 papers from my class in H.E. 20. I got through three fourths of them and decided to write a letter before finishing the others. One's eyes tire easily when checking 112 answers for each of the papers. Wish I could renew my powers of seeing once in awhile.

Greetings to everyone.

Sincerely,  
Helen

Sat. eve.

Dear Dad,

Enclosed is a money order for \$40.00. I wonder if you will put it on your checking account so we can draw from it if Vera needs the money. I don't have any good way of keeping cash



up here as I have no account at the  
bank. I know You will need some  
money + I've said I'll help pay ~~these~~ expenses  
or if this is all right with you will  
leave it this way. Until I draw it  
out again then - I'll take it off my  
bill which now will be \$657.50 for  
the present. Marge Tak!!

Yours,

Walter



UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA  
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
UNIVERSITY FARM, ST. PAUL

DEPARTMENT OF HOME ECONOMICS

Related Art Department  
May 29, 1942

Dear folks -

Shello! and many, many thanks for the lovely spoon. Each time I get one I get the same nice feeling inside as I did when the very first piece came. I do like that pattern of silver so much. Mange tak!

The littles were also very good and I took the news down to Vera as you asked me to do.

Monday afternoon I have an appointment to speak with one of her doctors who requested that I come. So perhaps we will know something more definite about her condition then.

I shall write as soon as I find out. I haven't gone to see the doctors before this time because I felt that when and if they wanted consultation with me that they would call. So we shall see what they have to say.

Yesterday was a very nice day for a birthday. Some of the girls had a nice surprise party for me in the afternoon after class. Mrs. Bidstny sent a very good letter and four nice handkerchiefs. Lois and George sent a telegram from Milwaukee, so I was very well remembered. This morning there was a beautiful handkerchief from Ruth Segelson, my office mate this quarter.



We had a young cloudburst last nite. The street cars weren't running on their regular schedules this morning because of all the water. But now the rain has ceased and it looks a little less dreary.

Night before last I was on a picnic. One of the Home Economics honor societies and an Agriculture honor society had a joint picnic for which I was a chaperone. We played baseball after eating and everyone had a good time ragging the players on the opposing team. When it got dark we gathered in a circle and sang songs before going home.

I'm sending a check for \$60.00 to you this time. The Defense Bonds haven't come through yet but the amount of red tape between University, bank and the government offices seems to be holding up our receiving them. So when they do come I'll send them and then deduct from my debt. I have \$657.50 left and deducting the \$60.00 for this check leaves a grand total of \$597.50 which I owe you. As I said last time I'd like this to be put on checking so that if Vera needs it we can draw it out for her use.

Greeting to all.

Sincerely,  
Welm

P.S. Thanks for the box you sent. I found some of the white buttons in a box up here. Sorry - I had you go to all that trouble.



1381 North Cleveland  
Saint Paul, Minn.  
September 20, 1942

Dear folks,

This Sunday letter - like many others - is a little late! 'Excuse it, please.

Doris came back to St. Paul with me and we have been having a marvellous time! I wish she were going to be with us in the department this year. She is such a grand person.

We have been invited to the Goldsteins, to Miss McNeal and tonight we are invited to Mrs. Ofelt's and tomorrow evening to Miss Studley's house. Miss Studley is head of Home Management here.

We were downtown Friday. I have looked everywhere for remnants for the apron for Mrs. Jensen you spoke of. But I could find nothing in yellow or blue. So the best buy was this remnant of brown and white dimity which I sent you. With brown vic-rac I think it will work up all right. I hope you can use it.



October issue  
One of my designs is in a national  
magazine this month. It is a  
magazine put out by the A. & P. Stores.  
and is considered a very good one  
by those who know about needle  
work for women. I have asked Vera  
to get a copy and send it to you. If  
she can't find one I'll send it to  
you - I mean my copy. The design  
is my white wool jacket with  
embroidery on the sleeves.

Thanks for the pictures of Aunt  
Jenny's family & I forwarded the  
pictures to Vera.

About the Chinese box. It must  
be a box about 12" x 16" by about  
6" deep - that is a rough - very  
rough guess but the best I can  
estimate at present. I imagine  
they are in some box in the attic  
or in the closet or the shelves some  
where. - Hope you find them O. K.

Donis is taking some of my  
designs back with her to photograph  
for her book. She is writing a



book on crafts. I think its going to be a very good one. She has asked me to design a belt for the book also. The book probably will come out some time next year.

I've been checking out on you again. Dad. When my first check comes in for my salary Oct. first - I'll send you an itemized account of my checks which have been written on your account, then will know where we're at. Summer living certainly eats into the money matters when one is just living and not earning. I have no squawks though as long as I have good health and earning power!

I think maybe I'll buy some black wool coat material to make up after Christmas. I'm afraid when I get my present coat cleaned this fall that the material will



look too threadbare to last  
very much longer. With new  
materials being so much  
inferior in quality I'd like to  
get something good while it  
still on the market. I've never  
made a winter coat but I think  
I might be able to.

While I was in Milwaukee I  
had a couple of stones ground and  
polished for jewelry. As you  
remember the ones I got from  
Olma? Well, some of them  
are pretty good color. Of course,  
we can't buy silver now to make  
jewelry but at least I'll have the  
stones for some future date.

Greetings to everybody. Hope  
you are all well.

Sincerely,

W. L. L.



College debt 6/42	\$ 560.00
July 27 - check	25.00
Aug. 2 - money order	50.00
Aug. 10 - check	20.00
Aug. 13 check	25.00
Aug. 14 - check	20.00
Aug. 30 - check	10.00
Aug. 20 - cash - home.	70.00
Sept. 15 - check	20.00
Sept. 18 - check	35.00
Sept. 19 - check	10.00
Sept. 22 - Check	25.00
<u>Total</u>	<u>\$ 870.00</u>

Sept. 30, 1942



1381 North Cleveland  
Saint Paul, Minn.  
October 1, 1942

Dear folks,

Thanks for the newspaper and the card. I don't know of any recipes for canning celery. They don't do so much of that here in the department. Why don't you write to the Foods Specialist, Extension Department, Iowa State College? Or you could write to Martha Duncan at H O I, Iowa State College. She could find out for you.

Enclosed is my "statement" for the summer. I've kept track of the checks and the approximate ~~amount~~ dates which I wrote the checks. Some of the money was spent for things for Vera but we will settle that between us.

I'm enclosing a cashier's check for \$80.00. Subtracting that from the total of \$870.00 leaves \$790.00 — and from there on



I'll start whittling away this year.

Many thanks for letting me have the use of your checking account, Dad. I do appreciate it very much.

Have you heard from Vera lately? I haven't heard for about two weeks. Hope she is feeling all right.

One of our professors on this campus died yesterday. He was a very famous man in his field.

We are all very sorry about it here.

A lady who writes articles for the St. Paul Sunday paper interviewed me and had several pictures taken of my weaving.

She is doing an article for the paper for one of these next issues. Did you get a "Woman's Day" Magazine for October? I asked Vera to get one and send it if possible.



I think you might obtain a copy from the G. & P. store in Cedar Falls if you happen to be there.

Classes have started and it's good to get back into routine. The faculty-student reception is a week from Friday nite. They asked me to head up the decorations committee and the Reception line committee. Hope all goes as it should.

Let me know if you hear from Una soon.

Love,  
John



1381 Cleveland Ave. North  
Saint Paul, Minnesota  
October 24, 1942

Dear folks,

It's Homecoming weekend here at Minnesota. The football game is still in progress and the weather is with us! This morning we had a nice little snow storm but the grass is now green again as the sun has been out since noon.

Our decorations are all finished and the students certainly deserve a lot of praise for their good work. Last night we had the "Varsity Show" over in Northrop Auditorium. One of the students on the central committee gave a student and me a complimentary ticket so we had a good time after our week's work.

You must have had a very nice party for Dagmar. Thank you for remembering us to her. The bazaar really was successful too, wasn't it?

We started our bandage rolling unit this past week for the Red Cross group sponsored by Home Economics. Another contingent of Navy men has been added to our campus - so



on we go. The navy groups are really very fine ones. The boys are all of superior intelligence and certainly are doing good work here at the University. They move from place to place on the campus in mass formation - usually they sing navy songs as they march. There is one group which is called the Machinist's mates, another the Engineer's mates and the third is the Navy Cooks and Baker's group.

It has just been announced that there is a crowd of fifty-five thousand people out in the stadium. - Really a lot of folks!!

Miss Goldstein asked me to put my straw and grass place mats in the show case in Home Economics. So this morning I put up the group. I have three rather nice cornhusk mat designs which I believe I made since I showed you the ones I made this summer.

The wall hanging in the picture in the paper - is on its side.



The nicest thing happened this week. Dean Freeman asked me if I would serve on the group of the Ag. Union Board of Governors, which handles all the social activities on our campus and regulates the various campus activities. It is a three year position held by one faculty member. The Dean of the College also acts in an advisory capacity.

Did I tell you that I sent for some black wool coating material? I haven't gotten it yet but I expect to receive it the first of the week. Hope it's as nice as I hope.

Tonight is the first of the Symphony Season. I have a much better seat this year chiefly because Miss Dordell, who is in plant pathology, asked if I'd like to have one of her tickets. A friend of hers wasn't able to go this year so she had an extra place.

The mother of one of our Canadian Graduate Students is visiting her this weekend. So Betty has asked us to be her guests at the Smorgasbord at



the St. Paul Hotel tomorrow afternoon.  
I've never been to the hotel for a  
singasbord so I think it will  
be much fun. Mrs. Newcombe came  
from Winnipeg, Manitoba.

- just about time for the game to  
finish up - and I must get some  
mending done before I go to dinner.  
Greetings to all.

Sincerely,  
Helin



1381 North Cleveland Ave.  
Saint Paul, Minn.  
November 5, 1942

Dear folks,

Yes, indeed, I'm still here - even if I haven't gotten to that weekly letter for you.

Thank you so much for the two letters which came this week and last. Too bad about Carl Henry. It certainly must be lonesome for Uncle Carl. I don't think it would do any good to contact the Red Cross because the government is the agency which logically would have the most up-to-date and complete information concerning its army and navy men. The Red Cross acts more as a service organization than as a record organization.

This afternoon I was in Minneapolis at the Weaver's Guild meeting. A group of city women have this organization to discuss their problems and common interests in weaving. I was asked to bring along some of the things I'd woven this summer. Then they asked if I'd speak to them - so I did the best I could.

Ah, yes - about getting a copy of the paper for Aunt Jenny - when I get St. Paul I'll go to the paper office and see if I can secure



another copy. I don't have one just now. Usually a person can get a copy or two, however. So I'll try my best.

Saturday night of this week is faculty reception on our campus. Long dresses are in keeping so I'm going to get out my black wool and velvet. Lucky not to have to sew anything this time. Next Wednesday evening is the President's reception on the main campus - another long dress affair.

Symphony was excellent Friday evening. Tomorrow night Rudolph Serkin, the eminent pianist will be the soloist. The concert promises to be good.

Sunday there is another tea and Monday Sean Bailey is having an all college tea and lecture. Monday evening one of the national officers of the Y. U. C. A. is meeting with our local advisory board for a dinner meeting - and so it goes. Ah, yes - and I still teach classes too!!!

I'm sending a \$75.00 cashier's check dad. From now until after Christmas I suspect my savings will have to go for the income tax but will it be all right if I still send the money to you and then check it out when the income tax has to be met? I expect the amount to be well over \$400.00 for this time. But that's o.k. just so I have it when the time comes. In the meantime I'll keep



on subtracting until I have a back-track!  
So \$75.00 from \$730.00 leaves \$655.00 to  
date. Manage take.

I'm rather tired so think I'll stop  
and go home. It's now close to nine  
o'clock and I haven't been home since  
7:40 this morning.

My coat material came - I haven't  
had time to look for patterns as yet.  
Material is lovely though.  
Greetings to everyone.

Love,  
Helen

P.S. Thank you for the dollar bill which  
you enclosed in the next to the last  
letter. H.S.P.



1381 North Cleveland  
Saint Paul, Minn  
November 24, 1942

Hells folks!

How are you? Is Sike out of postage stamps or what? I haven't heard so much as a cough or sneeze from down Iowa for some time now. Are you O.K.?

The weather here is wonderful. It's dark and moon light out when I go to school in the morning and its moonlight when I come home from the office at nite. But in another month the days will start getting longer. Then it won't seem so early getting started.

Tomorrow nite we are having a Pitter's dance at the Union. They have asked me to chaperone. Fred is going with me.

I have an invitation to spend part of the Christmas holidays in Winnipeg with Peggy and Jean - the two girls who were in summer school here. If transportation isn't tied up too much I'd like very much to go see them. If so - it would mean that I couldn't both come to Iowa and to Winnipeg for Christmas. Would you mind a great deal? As I now see it - I'm



not exactly sure what will happen. If  
John's father isn't well then I've told  
her to let me know and I'll come  
some other time.

Jan is the art teacher in one of the  
Winnipeg highschools. Peggy is a Home  
Economics teacher there. Then there  
is a very good friend mine from Ames  
teaching art in the University at Winnipeg.  
She and I were in classes together at  
Ames. So, you see, it would be fun.  
However, much depends on the  
transportation situation. Bill says that  
there is not much congestion on the  
route from here to Winnipeg and that  
there shouldn't be much travel difficulty.

Thursday five of us are having  
Thanksgiving dinner together at Port's  
on Grand Avenue in St. Paul. It is Norma's  
birthday and we are honoring her.

Saturday night is the Dean Freeman  
dinner in Coffman Memorial Union.  
Dean Freeman is retiring from active  
duty this year and so we are having the  
gathering in his honor.

Sunday Stella is coming through  
on the train from Wisconsin some place?  
She has a wait in St. Paul from four



o'clock until five thirty and wondered if  
I'd be interested in coming down to see her.  
So I think we'll go to the St. Paul Hotel Coffee  
Shop for "after-middays kaffe" and  
a visit.

How is Vera? She doesn't write  
much about herself, I hope she is  
getting sufficient rest.

I'm sending my mats and wall  
hanging to Tittle today. A Miss Neff is  
going to display them in the public  
library downtown, I believe. If you'd  
like to see the wall hanging and have  
the opportunity to get to Adah Tallen  
I'd like to have you see it. I think it's  
the best weaving I've done to date.

This afternoon I don't have any  
classes so I'm going to go to town and  
look for fur for my coat.

Did you do anything about the  
old silk hose? And do you have any  
wool sweaters that I may have for my  
weaving?

Love,

Helene

P.S. I got my first Christmas present last week, a  
hybrid amaryllis bulb from Daisy. The bulb looks like  
a bulb about five or six times the size of those we  
used to have at home. I took it to Dr. Longley in Horticulture

who potted it for me.



Des Moines, Iowa  
Saturday afternoon

Dear Folks,

I sure can taste chicken soup & golf balls. When I told Mrs. Hilgenberg this morning at breakfast that you called last night to see if we were coming, she said well if it just hadn't been that it was Rose Marie's birthday tomorrow (Sunday) we would just have gone any how & left her at home but I didn't think we should do that on her birthday. Now I knew her birthday was the 29<sup>th</sup> of Nov. but never stopped to figure it would be this Sunday. But she said if we can fill our gas tank full Monday before the rationing starts maybe we would have enough to go next Sunday - if they have enough gas to go next Sunday is the invitation still good?

I got the box and all the things. Thanks for the stuff. One of those pairs of shoes was



Helen's but it had ties + alligator leather  
so how should you know you poor thing!!  
I think I'll wrap them up + give them to her  
for Christmas!

Say would you send me my  
set of blue Christmas light + the reflectors  
those silver or tin box lids? Only the set  
of light (seven bulbs) with the white cord  
is any good.

Here's a sample of the blue goods  
I'm making little Karen's dress of.  
I'm still smocking the front in white.  
It looks so cute.

Well, I better sign off +  
get this over to Uncle Sam's post  
box!

Ingefran Vera



1351 North Cleveland Ave.  
Saint Paul, Minnesota  
December 3, 1942

Dear folks,

So glad to hear from you and to know that you got the check and war bond a couple of weeks ago. Sorry that I didn't hear from you for so long. I was about to wonder if you had received the money.

Today I'm sending a cashier's check for \$35.00. Subtracting that from \$555.00 leaves a grand \$520.00. Marge tak!

About the assistant professorship - you must be mistaken. I can't recall what the clipping was about that I sent - but I haven't become any assistant professor as yet. So thanks for the good wishes anyhow.

And concerning the chicken dinner for Stella - anything will be alright, I'm sure. Whatever you have and whatever you can get.

Did I tell you that Stella stopped off here Sunday afternoon between trains? So we went to the St. Paul Hotel and had dinner together. She said something about having talked to you and asked how you were - I replied that I hadn't heard from home for some time and that



when she saw you to "hilsen" you and say that I'm still kicking strong! So if she has some fun with you, you will know why.

Thanks for assembling the yarn for me. When I get ready for it I'll send you a note. And thank Ann too.

Do you think you can find my big white Christmas Candle that fits into the copper candlestick which I made in Arnes? It's the candle that I used for my Christmas Card year before last.

Have an extra dance for me when Lorraine is married on the eleventh! It will certainly be a grand time to initiate that new suit, dad! Til lykke!

It was terrifically cold here yesterday - but the weather has warmed up considerably today. Not having any classes this afternoon, I have decided to catch up on the grading of some classwork. The quarter will soon be over.

Vera wrote me a nice long letter yesterday. When does her vacation start, I wonder. Hope she gets a good rest.



Cabley wrote me a letter last week.  
He seems to like his work very much.  
Hope it goes well for him.

Tonight Fred and I are going to the  
University band concert on the main  
campus. Tomorrow night is symphony-  
Nathan Milstein, the great violinist, is  
the soloist with the organization.

I think I better get started on those  
notebooks.

Love,

Helen



1381 North Cleveland  
Saint Paul, Minn.  
December 14, 1942

Dear folks,

Thanks for your good letter and the special report of Lorraine's wedding. It must have been very nice. I thought of you Friday night and guessed that you were all having a wonderful time. Was the reception in the auditorium?

I've had a little session with a cold this past week. Thursday I really had to give in to it and come home to rest for a few days. My voice is now back again and I went to the office for a short while - my goodness - the work is piling up - yes, literally piling up all over - notebooks galore!!! But I'll just take it piece by piece and it will vanish in time.

It's so nice that Miss Voogd is able to stay at our house. About the meals - when I have fruit, toast and coffee (I always get milk) it costs twelve cents. If I have orange juice (which is a little more) bacon or eggs



toast and coffee it costs me thirty cents at one cafeteria and twenty two cents at the other. So you see how prices vary.

If she decides or if you decide to have her stay - I think it would maybe be nice to move the writing desk and chair up to her room - one really needs a place like that when away from home. Shall I send back the two lamps? I can easily get some others for my dressing table here.

I haven't been down in St. Paul to shop for ages - but when I go I'll see if they still have some braid for the chair. It's peculiar, I thought I had enough - but maybe I didn't plan to fix it across the back, thinking it wouldn't show much there. But I'll keep it in mind.

Glad you liked my weaving.



It is to be on exhibit here at Farm  
and Home Week.

Tonight is blackout for the region.  
So when my lights go out I suppose  
yours will too.

I've just written to Peggy and Jean  
about coming to Winnipeg. I'm leaving  
here the day after Christmas at eight  
o'clock in the morning. Wish I could  
come home too but I really can't  
afford two trips so I'll be very happy  
with one this time. Maybe I can  
make it home some weekend if  
I don't have a Saturday class next  
Quarter.

Glad you had a nice <sup>evening</sup> with  
Stella and her friend. I'm sure  
they enjoyed themselves too.

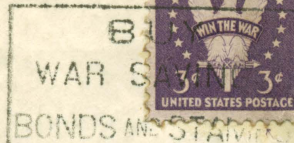
Haven't had time to make  
any Christmas cards this year -  
too busy taking care of my cold!

Greetings to everyone.

Love,  
Helene



Helen S. Petersen  
1381 N. Cleveland  
Saint Paul, Minn.



Mr. and Mrs. Thorwald Petersen and Vera  
Dike.  
Iowa



234 Young St.,  
Winnipeg, Dec. 16, '42

Dear Helen -

I'm so glad you're coming!!  
I'm counting the days. But listen!  
Could you possibly leave on  
Friday evening, the 25<sup>th</sup> and  
land here Saturday morning?

That would mean all of us  
leaving on the same train.

Saturday evening, and one  
more day at the lake!

Now don't worry if you're already  
booked, you and I will go out  
the 27<sup>th</sup> and the gang can meet  
the train at Malachi, where we'll  
get off.

I'm sorry Peg won't be in  
our party, for this is an  
old and tried crowd, but she'll  
see you when you arrive, and  
after we're back from the lake.

I have a complete outfit  
of togs for you - and yes, even



2. to the woolies. Bill warned me  
you wouldn't have any. Wasn't  
that precious?

Hurry, hurry, hurry,  
Love -

Jean.



1381 North Cleveland Avenue  
Saint Paul, Minnesota  
December 21, 1942

Dear folks and Vera,  
Merry Christmas to each and  
all of you!

Today is the first day that I've  
really had any time to give thought  
to anything Christmas-like. I finished  
averaging grades yesterday afternoon.  
Never have I been so late with that  
chore. So I've been working at  
school on a few things I must  
get off. Still haven't had time for  
any cards this year. Guess I'll  
have to skip them.

My plans are to leave for  
Winnipeg Friday evening and arrive  
Saturday morning. Saturday evening  
we leave for the lake for a few  
days. I think it will be so much  
fun. Had a letter from Peggy and  
from Jean too - they send their  
greetings to you, Vera.



Kay Winner left for Jackson, Mississippi where her husband is stationed. You remember the day we picked out her wedding clothes, Vera? Well, they have found someone to take her place in dietetics here. I certainly will miss her. We've had such wonderful times together since we've been at Minnesota. However, it's so nice that she can be with Allan.

Everybody in Home Economics - from Miss McNeal down - have expressed pleasure at receiving Christmas cards from you, Vera! You certainly have a warm spot in their hearts up here. How glad I am to be your sister!

Oh, I must tell you my - no - your perfume story! Do you remember that the Prince was left up here because we couldn't get "him" down to down without first holding him all the way? Well, I used some the other evening when I was going over to the main campus with Dad.



In his own inevitable Scotch-Canadian way he said, "Say, pardon me - but for a working gal - you surely smell good!!!!" Have you ever heard it put that way?? I've been laughing about it ever since.

Did I tell you that I'm learning to bowl? It's really much fun. I know you'd like it, Una. We bowl over in the main campus Union. I was a little stiff at first but one gets used to using the "new" muscles. At present I know enough to use the terms strike, split and space in the right places. Well, no more bowling until new years. Fred went to Boston to visit his two aunts who were helping him through school when he did his masters.

Lay and I were over at Mary Frances' house Wednesday for dinner. Marion Ralston was there too. We had some wonderful waffles. Mary's mother went to Colorado for the holidays. First time the two of them haven't spent



Christmas together.

Margaret Brew is staying here Christmas. Margaret Nyberg and her sister (who lives with her - they have the apt. that M. Brew had this summer) are going to Stockholm, Wisconsin for Christmas.

Dene Johnson wrote me the nicest letter this week. If you see her please greet her from me.

As far as I now know I won't have any Saturday classes next quarter. Isn't that something? After getting out for eight o'clocks every day this quarter it will seem like something new.

Greetings to everyone at home in Sike and Orderville! I'll be with you in thoughts if not in reality.

I'll write when I arrive in Winnipeg.

Love,

Welen

P.S. Here's a check for \$30.00 to dad. Marge took!!

H.S.P.

P.S.S. Package follows.



Tuesday noon

Hello again!

Og en glædelig Jul!

Officially now I'm ready  
to send this letter. Thanks for  
everything in the wonderful big  
box from Des Moines and Sibs!  
I've opened it but not the  
individual packages! no sir!  
not till Christmas Day.

I'm sending two boxes to you.  
In the one box is a package for  
Tittle and Hans - which I hope you  
will deliver in the proper fashion -  
you know - via the back door!!! no  
really - the method of entrance makes  
no difference this time.

Love,  
Selma